

The Mirror  
OF  
LITERATURE, AMUSEMENT, AND INSTRUCTION.  
(PRICE TWOPENCE.)

No. 8.]

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1844.

[VOL. I. 1844.]



Original Communications.

STATUE OF JAMES THE SECOND,  
DESTROYED AT THE REVOLUTION.

OUR readers are this week presented with a representation of a statue made in honour of that strange compound of good and evil, that hero, recreant, cold-blooded tyrant, and  
No. 1204.]

enthusiastic devotee, James the Second. It was cast as a sort of companion to the well-known equestrian figure of his father, and was erected, or intended to be erected, at Newcastle-upon-Tyne, to which town, it appears, he was graciously pleased to grant a new charter, which, however, was rendered void by a subsequent proclamation. It was probably in consequence of some intimation of his royal favour that

[VOL. XLIV.

the subject of our cut was fashioned, with a view to its speedy erection after the expected grant of the charter. The caprice of James and the course of events changed its destination in a very remarkable manner, and that which was intended to be an enduring mark of respectful gratitude was speedily converted into the means of sounding his disgrace. The following curious narrative of what took place with the cut, we copy from Richardson's 'Local Historian's Table-Book,' an interesting and laborious work, of which a more detailed notice will shortly appear.

"A little before the revolution there was erected before the Exchange, in the midst of the Sandhill, Newcastle, a most beautiful equestrian statue of King James II, cast in copper, of the size of the famous equestrian statue of Charles I, at Charing cross, London. The horse stood raised upon its hind feet. The king was clothed in a coat of mail, booted and gauntletted; by his side hung a Roman flaming sword; his right hand held the truncheon, his left the bridle; down his breast hung the George by the collar of his coronation; on his head a wig, and round his temples a wreath of laurel. The statue was raised upon a pedestal of white Italian marble, fourteen feet from the base, which was of black marble polished. On the dexter side of the pedestal was curiously carved, in basso relievo, all the trophies of war surrounding the king's name, &c. On the sinister side was carved the town's arms, the names of the mayor, recorder, and sheriff. On the ends was the representation of a sea-fight, and the whole surrounded with iron palisadoes. It was the work of Mr William Larson, was approved of by Sir Christopher Wren, and cost the town 800*l.* sterling. In November, 1688, when the town received the Lord Lumley, and declared for the Prince of Orange and a free parliament, this statue was demolished by the mob, who dragged the statue and its horse upon the quay, and turned them over into the river. The statue was afterwards cast into a set of bells, as appears by the following extract from the common-council books:—'April 1, 1695, All Saints' parish humbly requests the metal of the statue (of James II, on Sandhill), towards the repair of their bells.' St Andrew's parish made a similar request. 'Ordered, that All Saints' have the metal belonging to the horse of the said statue, except a leg thereof, which must go towards the casting of a new bell for St Andrew's parish. A print of this statue was published, price 5*s.*, at Newcastle, by Joseph Barber, music and copper-plate printer. Mr Barber's proposals for this print were circulated in June, 1742, and its being ready for delivery was announced by advertisement, February 19, 1743.

*Inscription upon the Pedestal.*

JAMES the II,  
By the Grace of God,  
of Great Britain,  
France, and Ireland,  
King, Defender of the Faith,  
Sir William Creagh, Knight,  
Mayor,  
Samuel Gill, Esq.,  
Sheriff,  
1685.

"The preceding account is chiefly gleaned from Bourne and Brand, the Newcastle historians. There are strong grounds, however, for supposing that the statue had never been put up. The only entries in the books of the corporation of Newcastle of disbursements made on this head, amounting to little more than 770*l.*, are on account of the statue alone; no payment whatever occurs for either the marble pedestal on which it was represented to have stood, or the iron palisadoes, or for the charges which would necessarily be incurred in its erection. From these circumstances, and the distracted state of the country at the period, it is not improbable that it may have remained on the quay, where it had been landed only a short time previous to the disturbances in November, 1688, when its contiguity to the river would readily suggest to the mob the idea of overturning it into the water. The date, 1685, in the inscription, is clearly an error, as Sir William Creagh was not appointed mayor of the town until January 3, 1687-8."

JOHN PERROTT, THE BANKRUPT  
OF FOUR SCORE YEARS AGO.

BANKRUPTS and insolvents have latterly occupied so much of public attention, that it may be useful to look back at the course which was taken with one eminent bankrupt of the last century.

At the close of George the Second's reign a laceman, named John Perrott, carried on trade in Blow-bladder street, in the City of London. His attention to business and exemplary punctuality gained him a high reputation. Fortune appeared to crown his labours with deserved success. He emerged from the street which has been named, and established himself on Ludgate hill. From the great progress he had already made, every one was prepared to see him go on prosperously in the same career, realize a fortune, and attain the highest civic honours.

He had commenced business in 1747; he established himself in Blow-bladder street in 1749, and removed, as already stated, to Ludgate hill in 1752. Up to 1759 his returns were large, and his name unblemished. He, however, about the period last mentioned, began to take up goods on a great scale, and contracted for various

articles to the amount of 30,000*l.*, and actually got property into his possession that cost 25,000*l.* He then employed one Henry Thompson, who had before acted as his agent, to sell off the goods for ready money. Thompson had a small house in Monkwell street, to which the goods were sent in the evening, and some of the principal traders were invited to inspect them, it being represented that they had been consigned to him by the manufacturers. This practice has been continued by certain parties we could name down to a very recent date, and it may be regarded in particular quarters as one of the causes of late hours. They were of course sold great bargains, frequently 15 or 20 per cent. under cost price.

Having in this manner realized a large sum, the next step was to call his creditors together. They were accordingly invited to meet at the Half-moon tavern in Cheapside, Jan. 17th, 1760. There his conduct was so plausible that it made a very favourable impression on them. It was, however, thought advisable that a commission of bankruptcy should issue. He approved of the step: the commission issued on the 19th of that month, and he surrendered accordingly.

He appeared before the commissioners on the 4th of February, but declared that he was not prepared to render his accounts. Further time was granted, and two of his creditors having discovered a great deficiency, he was summoned before the commissioners again on the 26th of that month, and examined more strictly than before, when he admitted that since 1758 he had bought goods to the amount of 20,000*l.*, and sold them for 15 to 20 per cent. under cost price. He had taken a house in Hide street, Bloomsbury square, and furnished it at an expense of 130*l.* for a lady; but he swore he had taken no other lodging, and had paid rent for no other person.

According to custom, his books were found in great confusion. It was discovered that on the third day after the commission issued, a paper parcel had been sent from Perrott to Thompson by his apprentice, sealed with three seals, which he desired him to take particular care of. The day after his first examination it had been claimed again, and Thompson declared that he never knew its contents. When called before the commissioners, on the 4th of March, Perrott caused them to be served with the Lord Keeper's order, which he had obtained without the knowledge of his creditors, enlarging the time for rendering his accounts by 46 days. It was then found out that about a fortnight after the commission issued, two large boxes had been sent by him to one Donelly, a peruke maker, in Bell yard, Temple bar, and from his care they were removed to

the last house in a court out of Queen square, Holborn, kept by a Mrs Ferne. That person, on the 26th of March, was examined, and she declared upon oath that she had known the bankrupt about a year, but swore he had deposited no property with her excepting wearing apparel, and that the paper parcel sealed with three seals had contained nothing but love letters, which had been destroyed.

In this situation of things it occurred to Perrott to do what many thieves of his class have since done. He pretended that one of his creditors, a friend whom he had most basely deceived, had sought and taken usurious interest. To the kindness and confidence of a Mr Whitton he owed his introduction to trade, his constant support; and this, as is the custom of these black-hearted swindlers, was made the pretext for calumniating, in order to heap greater ruin on a man whose only fault was, that he had unwisely placed confidence in a scoundrel.

At length, on the 19th of April, he rendered his accounts on oath, when there appeared a deficiency of 13,513*l.* This he attempted to explain by mentioning certain losses which he said he had incurred, and he added, "he was sorry to say he had been very extravagant and spent large sums of money." His answers were so unsatisfactory that he was immediately committed to Newgate.

Then it was that he showed his habits were as elegant, and his tastes as refined, as those of a genteel bankrupt or insolvent ought to be. Mrs Ferne constantly visited him in Newgate. She went to the prison in a chariot, or post-chaise, attended by a servant in livery, or a female attendant, or both. Within the walls Mr Perrott and Madam feasted as he thought became persons of their quality, and green peas at 5*s.* per quart were obtained for the worthy pair, with of course champagne and other delicacies which people of a certain description are fond of taking at the expense of others.

After being in prison six weeks, Perrott undertook to give a more satisfactory account of his estate. Among the items were the following:—

Clothes, hats, wigs, shoes, and other wearing-apparel, during my stay there (at Ludgate hill)	£.
	720
Horses and keeping them, saddles and bridles, and farrier's bill during my residence on Ludgate hill and Blow-bladder street	575
Tavern expenses, coffee-house expenses, and places of diversion during the above term	920
Expenses attending the connexion I had with the fair sex	5,500
With the aid of these items he pretended to make up the deficiency, but the	

commissioners, who were not such gabbling, goose-headed gentlemen as have since appeared among their successors, would not allow reckless extravagance, if proved, to excuse villainous fraud, and back to Newgate Mr Perrott was sent. Further inquiries showed that he had given money to Mrs Ferne, and that the mysterious parcel, sealed with three seals, had contained bank notes.

Perrott, under these circumstances, petitioned the Lord Keeper, impudently complaining of the illegality of his detention. Effrontery, however, failed, assuavity had previously done, and his petition was dismissed.

Several other equally audacious attempts he made to get released, and among others brought an action against the commissioners for false imprisonment. Those who violate all law to despoil others, invariably act as if all laws were designed to protect them.

The various stories which he told of the manner in which he had got rid of the property were not believed, even when they could not be disproved. One morning Mr Hewitt, who was one of Perrott's assignees, saw a woman leaning on the terrace of Lincoln's-inn garden, with an air so disconsolate and forlorn that he could not refrain from inquiring the cause of her distress. She said she had been a servant to one Mrs Ferne, who had turned her away. This person, whose name was Mary Harris, thus singularly encountered, subsequently gave important evidence. She had seen bank notes to the amount of 4,000*l.* in the hands of her late employer, and had often heard Perrott and her mistress say how they would live when he got his discharge. Once, in particular, Mrs Ferne told the bankrupt that the house of Sir John Smith, Bart., in Queen square, was to be sold, upon which Perrott said, "My dear, have you a mind for it?" She said, "Yes, if I can get it for 800*l.* or 900*l.* ;" to which he answered, "My life, if you have a mind for it I should like it above all places in the world." In consequence of this she actually made a bidding for the baronet's house. Mrs Ferne's residence was searched by the officers of Sir John Fielding, and the halves of a number of bank notes were found. Eventually it was proved that the money found on Perrott and Ferne was the produce of the bankrupt's estate, and he was convicted and received sentence of death.

When he was told the death-warrant was come down he manifested little emotion, but piously exclaimed, "The will of God be done." He was visited, at his own request, on the day before that fixed for his execution, by his assignees, to whom, however, he refused to give satisfactory answers on the state of his affairs.

It was ordered that he should suffer in Smithfield. On the morning of his execution he confessed the justice of his sentence, acknowledged the injury he had done to his benefactor, Mr Whitton, and asked his forgiveness. He was anxious that his body should be buried in the church of the place where he was born. He requested that the time allowed for the last preparations might be lengthened at the chapel, and shortened at the place of execution. In consequence, he was permitted to remain in chapel from eight o'clock till a quarter before ten. The next half hour he spent in taking leave of his fellow prisoners and in having his irons removed, and at a quarter-past ten he appeared, pale and trembling, at the door of the press-yard, and was immediately put into the fatal cart. On finding himself under the gallows he expressed extreme horror and despair, but when the ordinary approached to offer him the consolations of religion in his dying moments, he found him anxiously asking "where his hearse was?" and he was not satisfied till he learned that it was close at hand. After that he joined in prayer, and at eleven o'clock the cart was drawn away, and the wretched culprit passed into "the world unknown."

Little can fairly be said in favour of such a man. He was unquestionably a villain who deserved condign punishment. Still it may be said of him that he "fell on evil times." Had the bankrupt of four score years ago lived now, can any one suppose he would have been hanged in Smithfield? True, he had made away with other people's property to a great extent, but how many villains of late years have done the same, and been allowed to pass very quietly through the Bankruptcy or Insolvent Debtors' Court. Perrott had got hold of 25,000*l.* that did not belong to him, but what was that to the 140,000*l.* said to have been received by Bromley, the highly respectable solicitor? Why, it does not equal the amount of debts from which Mathews, the celebrated comedian, has been relieved. A multitude of other names at the fit season we may have to mention equally entitled to distinction. Could Perrott have postponed his operations till our time, he would perhaps have had two or three hearings, and have been sent about his business. A fool of a commissioner might have been highly entertained with the items of expenditure, and deemed it a fine opportunity to show his gallantry, when it appeared that of the bankrupt's incumbrances 5,500*l.* had been incurred through attachment to the fair sex, by praising his "liberality." When it came out that he had spent within a moderate period 720*l.* on clothes, hats, wigs, &c., and 720*l.*

for tavern expenses, the applause would probably have been renewed. Had he claimed an allowance to keep a carriage for himself and Mrs Ferne, the sapient commissioner would never have thought of saying, "Why can you not walk as well as those your robberies have compelled to go barefooted?" but have ordered 5/- a week to be allowed that he might ride. Mr Perrott, far from having to look out for his hearse, might have blithely dilated on the vast economy of keeping a coach for himself, instead of indulging in the extravagance of an occasional eightpenny ride in a common cab.

The bankrupt of to-day may felicitate himself that the system of eighty years ago is no more. Not then would he have been allowed to exhibit as on a stage, to a mirthful audience, the fascinating vivacity of his manner. Instead of looking on a smiling Commissioner he would have seen the Judge put on a black cap; instead of being permitted to step into a carriage, he would have been ordered to mount a cart, and the Ordinary of Newgate being in close attendance, the bankrupt would not have complained that it was too much to "preachee and floggee too," but he would have found that all he had to look for was *preachee and hangee too*.

Whether future bankrupts will get on so merrily as those who have latterly figured before the public is a question which, at the present moment, it would be difficult to answer. It would appear from the 'Plymouth Times,' that some reform is going on in the Bankruptcy Court, as we find in that journal the following interesting announcement:

"WAKLEY'S GRUEL.—The brother of the patriotic M.P. for Finsbury has been appointed official assignee, a place worth 2,000/- a year, in the New Bankruptcy Court. The official assignee formerly kept the china shop in Exeter, now occupied by Mr Rossiter."

There is certainly room for improvement.

#### LITERATURE IN SPAIN—

##### AL-HAKEM.

IGNORANCE and superstition, in modern times, seem to have fixed their abode in Spain. Yet in no part of Europe can more satisfactory proofs be given than that there, in ancient days, literature was cultivated with extraordinary care, and flourished in an extraordinary degree. There it was that public libraries were first established, and the literary fame of his country was not less dear to the ancient Spaniard, than her military glory.

The early princes of Spain, the descendants of Mohammed Abd-ar-Rahmán, ben Moaire ben Hâshim, the intruder, established a powerful empire, which is

said to have comprehended part of France and all Spain, prided themselves in the tenth century on being the protectors of letters. One of these, named Al-Hakem, reigned in Cordova about the year 976. Ibn-al-Abar, of Valencia, a writer who lived about the year 1300, in his history of illustrious men, gives the following relative to the career of Al-Hakem:—

"This prince was fond of letters, and during the life of the king, Abd-ar-Rahmán, his father, his time was occupied in assembling in his house the wisest men in Cordova, and in conversing with them upon literature, discussing historical points, and giving premiums to those who most distinguished themselves in poetry, mathematics, or medicine. His knowledge was so vast, that it embraced every subject and every science, and no book fell into his hands, how difficult and abstract soever it might have been, that did not come from them adorned with valuable notes and commentaries. When, after the death of his father, he took the administration of the empire, the serious occupations of government did not prevent him from cultivating science. Several verses of this monarch have been preserved. His favourite passion was that of acquiring rare books of arts and sciences, elegant collections of poetry, and all kinds of works upon geography and history. No trouble or expense was ever spared to bring from the principal towns of Syria, Africa, and Egypt, the works newly published by their learned inhabitants. For this purpose he commissioned, in Egypt, the famous Abou Isaâk Mohammed ben Al-Kâsim-al-Rhebâni; in Syria, Abou Ommar Mohammed ben Yakoub al-Kindi; and in Bagdad, Mohammed ben Tarhîm; who, besides buying for his account all the books which deserved attention, were ordered to get copied such as could not be otherwise acquired. Ibn Hayân, in his 'History of Spain,' says that this prince was, during the fifteen years of his reign, the decided protector of letters, and the delight of his people and subjects. Among the many illustrious men who flourished in his time, may be pointed out Mohammed ben Yussuf of Guadalajara, who wrote for and dedicated to the king the history of Spain and Africa, the lives of the kings and their wars, and a description in verse of several towns, such as Tahart, Tunis, Seglimes, and Nacor. Mohammed ben Yahya al-Kalfati of Cordova, who wrote a poem on flowers, several *casidas* (odes) in honour of Al-Hakem, and a history of the Genealogy of the African Tribes; Shâbour the Persian, author of several treatises upon mathematics and astronomy, and Ahmed ben Abd-al-Mâlik ben Hâshim, and Ahmed ben Said al-Hamdanî, who were both of them occupied in writing the

history of Spain. Nor was science, under the reign of this far-famed monarch, confined to the palace, or limited to a few men of high rank and important charges under the government ; it was also successfully cultivated by women in their retirement. The king had in his palace a young female slave named Lubna, who, besides being skilful in grammar, arithmetic, astronomy, and other sciences, composed very good verses, and wrote with singular beauty and elegance the different characters of the Arabic language, a reason why Al-Hakem employed her as his secretary for his private correspondence. Fatima, daughter of Zacaria al-Khablari, a servant of the royal household, wrote with the greatest perfection, and was continually occupied in copying out books for the king. Ayesha, daughter of Ahmed ben Mohammed ben Kadim of Cordova, was reckoned the most learned woman of her age ; and, to use the words of Ibn Hayān, 'she was beautiful like a rising moon, fine and slender like a young aloe bending its head to the south breezes ; if she ran, she looked like an antelope disappointing the sportsman by her rapid flight ; and if occupied in study or meditation, her eyes resembled the soft and melting eyes of the gazelle, looking from the top of a rock upon the burning sands of the desert. She was a well of science, a mountain of discretion, an ocean of learning. All the learned of her time admired her poetical compositions, she wrote different *casidas* in honour of the princes who were her contemporaries, and made a beautiful collection of books upon all sciences. Mariam, daughter of Abou Yakoub al-Faisoli of Telves, taught music and poetry with the greatest success to the young ladies of the principal families of Seville, and many have issued from her school who have made the delight and enchantment of the harems of the princes and people of quality.'

"The library of this prince, called the library of Merwān, because it was situated in the palace of that name in Cordova, contained upwards of 60,000 volumes. It was kept with peculiar care and in the greatest order, the books being placed with distinction of matters and subjects, and all the rooms and book-cases adorned with beautiful and elegant inscriptions relating to the number of books and the sciences of which they treated. The catalogue, which consisted of forty-four volumes in folio, contained the titles of the works, the names of the authors, the place of their abode, the year of their birth, and that of their death. He was also the first who founded a public library, after having acquired, at their weight in gold, the most rare and well-written books upon all subjects. Besides a great number of other colleges and academies, he instituted the famous aca-

demy of Cordova, from whence have arisen so many men illustrious by their knowledge and learning."

#### THE VROUCALACA.

The Vampire, of which so much has been written, is the descendant of the Vroucalaca of Modern Greece. It is astonishing to what a height of absurdity ignorance, aided by superstition, has arrived. Tournefort relates, that in all the Archipelago the people firmly believed that it was only in the Greek church that excommunication preserved the body entire and unputrefied. Some ascribed it to the force of the bishop's sentence—others thought that the devil entered into the body of the excommunicate, and reanimated him, so that he became an evil spirit incarnate. There was a prevalent superstition that the dead ate and drank in their graves, that they devoured their own flesh and burial-clothes for want of better food, and that all the viands and wine placed on the bier, and in fact consumed by the priests, were really the nourishment of the dead. From this point an easy transition would lead the excited dupes to believe in the demoniacal and hungry corpse sallying forth from the tomb, and satisfying at once its malignity and its appetite by preying on the flesh and blood of the living. Tournefort was present at the exhumation, impalement, and burning of a Vroucolaca in the island of Mycone, who was reported to have broken the windows and the bones, and drained the bottles and the veins of half the inhabitants of the island. For many days the people were in continual consternation, and numbers left their abodes and the island—masses were said—holy water showered about in torrents—the nine days were passed, and still the Vroucolaca was every night at fresh mischief—the tenth day mass was said in the chapel where the unfortunate corpse lay—but without avail, owing, as the priests afterwards pretended to discover, to the negligence of not extracting the heart before the expulsive mass was said. Had the heart been first extracted and a mass instantly said, before the devil could have returned into possession, the people were convinced his Infernal Majesty's entry would have been barred, and the nuisance put an end to. The corpse was then exhumed, the town butcher took out the heart, and declared that the entrails were still warm. The putrid stench of the corpse obliged them to burn frankincense, which produced an amalgamation of fumes that laid hold of the people's senses, and helped to inflame their imaginations. Vroucolaca ! Vroucolaca ! echoed through the cloisters and aisles. The corpse was assailed with swords in all directions, till a

learned Albanian appeared and told the people they were all fools for using Christian swords, since the cross of the hilt had the effect of pinning the demon more firmly in the body, instead of expelling him, and that the only sword for the purpose was the straight Turkish scymetar. The people would not wait for the experiment, but, with one accord, determined on burning the body entire. This was accordingly done on the point of the island of St George; and the people then defied the devil to find a niche in which to quarter himself, and made songs in celebration of their triumph.

Ricaut, in his history of the Greek church, relates, on the authority of a Candote Caloyer, a history of a young man of the island of Milos, excommunicated for a crime committed in the Morea, and who was interred in a remote and unconsecrated ground. The islanders were terrified every night by the horrid apparitions and disorders attributed to the corpse—which on opening the tomb was found, as usual, fresh and flowing with blood. The priests determined to dismember the corpse, and to boil it in wine—a profanation of the grape which, we suspect, the descendants of the priests of Lyssus would hardly in fact have executed, however they might urge the people to open their cellars for the pious occasion. The young man's relations begged for delay, in order to send to Constantinople for an absolution from the Patriarch. In the interim the corpse was placed in the church, and masses were said night and day for its repose. One day, as the Caloyer Sophronius was reading the service, a sudden crash was heard to issue from the bier, and on opening it the body was found mouldered and decomposed, exactly like a corpse deceased for seven years. The messenger arrived with the absolution, and on inquiry it was found that the Patriarch's signature had been affixed at the precise moment when the dissolution of the corpse produced the report in the coffin!

We can hardly read of such things with gravity, but they are the cause of serious annoyances to the poor relations of the deceased, who are by some accident the subjects of accusation. That will be seen from the above narrative.

In these extravagancies to this hour many believe. No doubt the general credulity enriches the few, which is the cause of the delusion being kept up from generation to generation.

#### A SCENE IN THE EAST.

IN Mr Davis's lately published work, the 'Vizier Ali Khan,' the writer gives a striking picture of the situation in which his father was placed. Ali Khan was a

deposed Indian prince, who was permitted to reside at Benares, where he enjoyed a large pension, and was permitted to collect a vast number of retainers, and was well disposed to act the part of Akbar Khan. For a time he escaped suspicion, and when at length it was thought necessary to guard against his treacherous designs, Mr Cherry, the resident, who had been slow to credit anything to his prejudice, was treacherously assassinated, with some of his servants.

Mr Davis was at this period the judge at Benares. He had been active in suggesting the importance of taking steps to secure Ali Khan; and, after murdering Mr Cherry, to the house of Mr Davis the ruffians proceeded. He was at home, and had only time to escape, with his wife and children, to the terraced roof, having no weapon for his protection but a pike or spear.

"The pike," Mr Davis writes, "was one of those used by running footmen in India. It was of iron, plated with silver, in rings to give a firmer grasp, rather more than six feet in length, and had a long triangular blade of more than twenty inches, with sharp edges. Finding, when on the terrace, that the lowness of the parapet wall exposed them all to view, and that they were fired at by the insurgents from below, Mrs Davis was directed, with her two female servants and the children, to sit down near the centre of the terrace, while Mr Davis took his station on one knee at the trap-door of the stair, waiting for the expected attack. The perpendicular height of the stair was considerable, winding round a central stem. It was of a peculiar construction, supported by four wooden posts, open on all sides, and so narrow as to allow only a single armed man to ascend at a time. It opened at once to the terrace, exactly like a hatchway on board ship, having a light cover of painted canvas stretched on a wooden frame. This opening he allowed to remain uncovered, that he might see what approached from below. In a few minutes, hearing an assailant coming up, he prepared to receive him. When full in view, and within reach with his sword drawn, the ruffian stopped, seeing Mr Davis on his guard, and addressed him abusively. The only reply was, 'The troops are coming from camp,' and at the same time a lunge with the pike, which wounded him in the arm. The enemy disappeared, and Mr Davis resumed his former position, when presently he observed the room below filled with Vizier Ali's people, and heard some of them coming up stairs. At the first who appeared he again drove his spear, which the assailant avoided by warily withdrawing his person; but Mr Davis, being by the action fully exposed to

view from below, was fired at by the assassins. The spear, by striking the wall, gave the assailant on the stairs an opportunity of seizing the blade end with both his hands ; but the blade being triangular, with sharp edges, Mr Davis freed it in an instant, by dropping the iron shaft on the edge of the hatchway, and applying his whole weight to the extremity, as to a lever. The force with which it was jerked out of the enemy's gripe cut his hands very severely, as was subsequently observed from their bloody prints being left on the breakfast tablecloth below, where he had staunched them. There was blood likewise on the stairs, and some dropped about the floors of the rooms. Though the present assailant disappeared like his predecessor, the repeated firing from below was discouraging, and Mr Davis now thought it necessary to draw the hatch on, leaving such an opening at the edge as still admitted of his observing what was going on below. He saw them for some time looking inquisitively up, but not altogether liking the reception that there awaited them, one of the number went out to the verandah of the room, to see if they could get at Mr Davis from the outside, while no further attempt was made on the staircase."

In this awful situation did Mr Davis remain for an hour and a half, exposed every moment to some new attempt upon his life. The assailants, however, were eventually baffled. A body of soldiers arrived from General Erskine's camp, and the danger was at an end. Order was promptly restored, and Ali Khan made prisoner, who would seem to have been too leniently treated. He was removed to Fort William, and thence to Vellere, where ultimately his career was closed, not by the hands of the executioner, but by "the visitation of God."

#### CHEMICAL MANURE.

**METHOD OF MASHING—SUPERPHOSPHATE OF LIME.**—Calcined bones are to be reduced by grinding to a very fine powder, and placed in an iron pan with an equal weight of water ; mix the bone with the water until every portion is wet : while stirring empty at once into the pan sulphuric acid, 60 parts by weight to every 100 parts of bone ; the acid should be poured in at once, and not in a thin stream. Stir it for about three minutes, and then throw it out of the pan. With four labourers and two pans you may mix two tons in one day, the larger the heap that is made the more perfect the decomposition ; the heap remains intensely hot for a long time. It is necessary to spread the superphosphate out to the air for a few days, that it may become dry. The great me-

chanical difficulty of reducing unburnt bones to a very fine powder renders the formation of superphosphate of lime from them very difficult, but common bone-dust in a pure state may be decomposed by boiling it in a leaden pan with half its weight of sulphuric acid and twice its weight of water, which may afterwards be dried up with sawdust or clay-ashes. Now it may be asked, In what do the fertilizing qualities of bones consist ? There seems still to be some doubt whether the phosphate of lime, or the gelatine, is the fertilizing substance in the bone. The following experiment will show that the animal matter in the bone merely acts by yielding, by slow decomposition, phosphate of lime in a state capable of being assimilated by plants ; and to the phosphate of lime being in a similar state in guano, and not to the ammonia contained in it, may be attributed the powerful effects of this valuable manure. To every 100 parts of large bones add 400 parts of water and 100 parts of muriatic acid ; let it stand for four or five days, and then drain off the liquid, and add the same quantity of fresh water and acid four times ; by this means the whole of the phosphate of lime will be dissolved in the liquid, and the bones will retain their original form ; they must be repeatedly washed until the water ceases to taste acid, then dry them in an oven, and rub them to powder. Evaporate the whole of the liquid in which the mineral matter of the bone was dissolved until nothing but a dry paste remains ; heat this to redness, rub it to a fine powder, and convert it into superphosphate of lime in the manner already described. Let two equal quantities of ground be sown with turnips, strain the seed and one of these two manures together, and the result will satisfy the most sceptical. Swedes are growing upon the light sands of Norfolk, in which four bushels of superphosphate of lime per acre were used, and the crops excellent,—the superphosphate was formed from calcined bones which did not contain one half per cent. of carbon.

#### AN ALDERMAN'S ORTHOGRAPHY.

One of these turtle-eating men,  
Not much excelling in his spelling,  
When ridicule he meant to brave,  
Said he was more PH. than N.  
Meaning thereby, more *phool* than *nave*.

**Precocity Fatal.**—It is proverbial that children remarkable for precocity of intellect or acquirements die prematurely. Boerhaave knew a boy who was a miracle of erudition, but scarcely attained his fifteenth year. Another learned youth, who passed night and day in study, died in his nineteenth year without any previous illness, merely of premature age.



*Arms.* Az. a fesse, wavy ar., charged with a cross pattée, gu., in chief two estoiles, or; and as an honourable augmentator, upon a chief, wavy of the second, a cormorant, sa., beaked and legged of the third, holding in the beak a branch of sea-weed called layer, inverted, vert being the arms of Liverpool.

*Crest.* A sea horse, assurgent, ar., maned, az., supporting a cross pattée, gu.

*Supporters.* Two hawks, wings elevated and endorsed, ppr., beaked, legged, and belled, or; charged on the breast with a cross pattée, gu.

*Motto.* "Palma non sine pulvere." "The palm (obtained) not without labour."

#### THE NOBLE HOUSE OF LIVERPOOL.

ROBERT JENKINSON, Esq., of Walcot, in the county of Oxford, had the honour of knighthood conferred on him by James I, in 1618, and, dying in 1645, was succeeded by his eldest son, by Anna Maria, daughter of Sir Robert Lee, of Billeslee in Warwickshire. This son, who was named Robert, was created a Baronet by Charles II, May 18, 1661. He represented the county of Oxford for several years in parliament. He married Mary, daughter of Sir John Banks, of Kingston hall, in the county of Dorset, Knight and Lord Chief Justice of the Court of Common Pleas, in the reign of Charles I, and had, besides a daughter, an only son Robert, who succeeded to his title and estates on his decease in 1677.

Robert represented the county of Oxford in parliament, and married Sarah, daughter of Thomas Tomlins, Esq., of Bromley, in the county of Middlesex, and sole heir of her brother, Thomas Tomlins, Esq., by whom he had surviving issue three sons—Robert, who succeeded him; Robert Banks, who afterward succeeded as fourth Baronet; and Charles, who was a Colonel in the army, and a Major in the Blues at the battle of Fontenoy. Sir Robert, as already stated, was succeeded by his eldest son, who bore the same name. The latter gentleman sat in parliament for the county of Oxford. He died in 1717, when his title devolved upon his brother, Robert Banks. He also was M.P. for Oxford, and married Catherine, third daughter of Sir Robert Dashwood, Bart. At his death, in 1738, he was succeeded by his eldest son Robert, who, in 1766, was succeeded by his brother Sir Robert Banks, at whose decease, unmarried, July 22, 1789, the Baronetcy came to his cousin, Charles

Jenkinson, born May 16, 1727, the son of Charles above mentioned, as third son of the second Baronet.

This gentleman, a person of superior talent, having taken his degree of Master of Arts at Oxford, repaired to London "with some literary reputation," says Burke, "to seek his fortune, and through the first Lord Harcourt obtained an introduction to King George III, as also the favourable notice of the Earl of Bute." In 1761 Mr Jenkinson was returned to parliament for Cockermouth, and promoted to the office of Under Secretary of State. In 1763 he became Secretary to the Treasury, and in 1766 one of the Lords of the Admiralty, and from the following year to 1773 he was a Lord of the Treasury. In 1786 he obtained the Chancellorship of the Duchy of Lancaster, and on the 21st of August in the same year was elevated to the Peerage by the title of Baron Hawkesbury, of Hawkesbury, in the county of Gloucester, and was from this elevated, May 28, 1796, to the Earldom of Liverpool. His lordship married, first, Amelia, daughter of William Watts, Esq., Governor of Fort William, in Bengal, by whom, who died in 1770, he had an only son Robert Banks, his successor, who was summoned to the House of Lords as Lord Hawkesbury, during the lifetime of his father, November 16, 1808. The Earl having become a widower, married a second wife June 22, 1782, Catherine, daughter of Sir Cecil Bishopp, and relict of Sir Charles Cope, Bart., by whom he had a son and a daughter, Charles Cecil Cope, the present earl, and Charlotte, who was married, in 1807, to James Walter, present Earl of Verulam. His lordship died December, 17, 1808, and was succeeded by his eldest son Robert Banks, K.G., who

was for a series of years first Lord of the Treasury. He was born June 7, 1770, and married, first, March 25, 1795, Louisa Theodore, third daughter of the Right Honourable and Right Reverend Frederick Augustus, Earl of Bristol, and Bishop of Derry, by whom he had no issue. She died June 12, 1821. His lordship married, in 1822, Mary, daughter of the Rev. W. Chester. A sudden attack of apoplexy compelled the earl to retire from public life in 1827. He died December 4, 1828, and having no issue his honours devolved on his half brother, Charles Cope, above mentioned.

He lived in most eventful times, and acted a very important part. It was while he was high in the council of the Crown that the great triumphs of the Peninsula were achieved, which paved the way for the overthrow of Bonaparte. Russia, the ally of England, he saw all but crushed by her mighty foe, and the genius or good fortune of Napoleon, when the firmness with which he had uniformly resisted the movements of revolutionary France was rewarded, and he had the happiness to see the tide of victory rolled back to its source; the invaded became the invaders, and the lately retreating Russians pursued the vanquished French, even into the heart of the superb capital of France. If England generally had to exult in this consummation, the Earl of Liverpool had especial reason to rejoice, not only as a minister, but as a man. For twenty years he had been pointed at with derision, for having advised the first coalition formed against the regicides, to march at once to Paris. Subsequent events led politicians to suppose that what he had contemplated was about as easy as a hostile advance to the moon, and "the Earl of Liverpool's march to Paris" became a by-word. He lived to see it accomplished, not merely once, but twice. It, however, gives but a melancholy view of the life of a statesman to know that he who might indulge the proud boast that, during his administration, the arms of England had been crowned with greater victories, with more undying glory, than had been witnessed in the course of the preceding 400 years, remarked to a friend, a short time before his death, who was with him when opening his letters, "You know not what it is to be the first minister of a nation like England for seventeen years, and never to see the post come in without anxiety and apprehension."

The present Earl was born May 29, 1785, and married, July 19, 1810, Julia Evelyn Medley, only daughter and heir of Sir George Augustus William Shuckburgh Evelyn, by whom, who died April 8, 1814, he had issue three daughters, but no son.

### THE SEVEN SLEEPERS OF EPHESUS.

For centuries the strange tale of the 'Seven Sleepers' has commanded attention. Mr W. F. Ainsworth has given it with much curious detail in the last number of 'Ainsworth's Magazine.' He shows that, charged with adhering to the Christian faith, an example was to be made of them. With much Pagan pomp they were entombed alive, in a dark cave, where each in succession fell into a deep unbroken slumber. The narrative adds:—

"Two centuries, all but a few years, had elapsed, when the slaves of Adolius, removing stones from the mountain side without knowing it, let the light of the sun into the cave, and the seven sleepers awoke. After the first feelings of astonishment at the novelty of their situation were over, and prayer and meditation had restored the memory of past events, it is not surprising that after so long a fast the feelings of hunger began to make themselves paramount over all other considerations. After some discussion, pressed by the urgency of the call, it was determined to draw lots as to which of them should descend the mountain, and endeavour to penetrate into the town by stealth till he could meet with some friendly Christian from whom he might obtain provisions.

It fell to Jamblichus to go forth. He accordingly left the cave. Every object which then met his eyes, after a sleep of two hundred years, filled him with amazement.

"Within the city he scarcely knew his way; old shops had disappeared, and new ones sprung up in their places; the streets followed new and different directions; and above all, amidst the great crowd moving about, each in the pursuit of his own avocations, he did not meet with a face he knew, or a single person whom he could determine to be a fellow-Christian. Fatigued and awed he resolved upon making a purchase of bread at a baker's shop and returning to his companions. With this view he approached the nearest, and tendered, in exchange for the bread, golden coin, having on one side the head of the Emperor Decius, and on the exergue the inscription, 'ΕΦΕΣΙΩΝ ΠΡΩΤΩΝ ΑΣΙΑΣ'.

THE ΙΕΡΑΣ ΚΑΙ ΑΥΤΟΝΟΜΟΥ.' The baker, examining the coin, and looking at Jamblichus, said—'Young man, your dress bespeaks you a stranger; wherefore do you tender a coin no longer current?'

"Jamblichus felt faint, as he distinguished, with difficulty, from an unfamiliar language, the meaning of the inquiry.

"The coin,' he answered, with a broken

voice, 'was good yesterday; what has occurred that it should not be so to-day?'

"Such a coin has not passed in Ephesus," observed the baker, "for nigh two centuries; and I suspect your intentions are about as honest as your disguise of dress and language, and your manners would indicate them to be."

"A crowd had been quickly attracted by the discussion, and still more so by the appearance of Jamblichus; and some among them suggested that he had found a treasure, and wished to impose on the good Christians of Ephesus.

"You are no Christians," said Jamblichus; "for if you were, you would scarce dare to own it. Your dress and language bespeak you of a different race."

"It was too much for an always excitable mob to have it supposed that there still existed pagans in the peculiarly sacred and Christian city of Ephesus, and they called out lustily, 'To the magistrate—to the magistrate! Away, away with the Pagan impostor!' The crowd re-echoed the cry, and Jamblichus was hastened along by a resistless mass of people, increasing every moment in numbers.

"If under the milder rule of the Byzantine emperors, and the establishment of Christianity as the religion of the state, the abuse of the military spirit had been much subdued, and violence suppressed, it was only to be supplanted by an artificial system of tame and ceremonious servitude, out of which occasionally popular feeling broke with an unrestrained licence and overwhelming vehemence. The attendants at the porch of the chief magistrate of the city refused admittance to what they considered as a madman borne along by the crowd. The baker held out the Roman coin in vain, till impatience broke the bounds of decorum; and the clamour of the people made itself heard within the walls of the palace, and then Jamblichus was hurried into the presence.

"Whence do you come?" said the governor, viewing the Roman Ephesian with a contempt not unmixed with wonder. The youth hesitated for a moment; but twice had the great apostle to the Gentiles enjoined the Ephesians to put away lying, and to gird their loins with truth as part of the armour of God, and he determined at all risks to abide by that injunction.

"From the cave in Mount Coressus," he answered with modesty, but firmness; and the statement was followed by a confused murmur, which ran through the crowd at the lower end of the apartment.

"Do you live there? or have you found a treasure in the cave?" inquired the governor, astonished at the youth's dialect.

"I was put there last night, with six

other noble youths of Ephesus, by order of the emperor; and my name is Jamblichus," answered the accused. The governor smiled incredulously, but the public devotion of the age was impatient to exalt the saints and martyrs of a now triumphant church; the murmur in the crowd grew louder and more distinct. 'A miracle!' was called out, and repeated from mouth to mouth, till it quickly spread over the whole city. The aged primate, Memnon, followed by several bishops—for the first synod was supposed to be still sitting—issued from his place to see a living martyr. Rich Ephesians and merchants of the city crowded to the governor's residence, and it was hastily resolved to clear up the mystery by a visit to the cave.

"Once more all Ephesus was collected in front of that rugged mountain—once more thousands of eyes strained themselves to discover aught but the same perpetual alternation of rock and verdure, the same overflowing fountain, trickling peacefully down the hill side. It was with difficulty that the attendants of clerical pomp and civil power could force a way through the enthusiastic multitude. Hundreds threw themselves at the feet of Jamblichus, to kiss the hem of his garments, or to be sanctified by being trod upon; and the women wept for joy at the doors and windows of their domiciles.

"The labour of tearing rocks and stones from their long resting-places to men roused by the most powerful incentives of curiosity and superstition, was but that of a moment; and what had taken the Roman soldiery hours of toil to accomplish was undone by the sinewy Christians in a few minutes. The chief men of Ephesus stood, within a most brief space of time, in the presence of the six young nobles of the reign of Decius. Their dress, their appearance, the long loss of a cavern sacred only to legendary lore, and now suddenly disclosed to them, and the deep faith of the age, ripe for any miracles vouchsafed in favour of the church, left no doubt as to the reality; but if there had been any the sequence of events would have destroyed such at once; for, as if guided by a holy impulse, the youths arose, and advancing towards their brethren, blessed them in the name of the Almighty God and of his Son, their Saviour and Redeemer. The proud prelates knelt before youths of nearly two centuries of existence; and those on the rock joining in prayer were seen by the multitudes in the city below; and one loud 'Hallelujah!' proclaimed the amazing discovery from the Caster to Mount Prion, and seemed to rend the skies in twain. When the witnesses arose from prayer and benediction the seven sleepers had sunk peacefully into eternal sleep.

"It is, perhaps, to be regretted that the seven youths were thus taken away without giving the light of their experience upon the apparently simple question, as to the twofold nature—one person and two natures—of the Son of God. It might not have been so acceptable to the Monophysite primate of Ephesus, or to Christians, who worshipped Mary as the mother of God, to have announced this fact, as it became afterwards to the primates of Rome, who also originally held the Monophysite, or one incarnate nature doctrine; but if the nature of our Saviour had, like the Trisagion, been thus miraculously revealed to the church, the scandal of the second synod, the martyrdom of Flavian, and the siege of the Cathedral of Ephesus might, perchance, have been averted; and what disorders, burnings, pillagings, and murders, might not have been spared to an early Christianity?

"A hundred and seventy years after this miracle vouchsafed to the people of Ephesus, and the tradition of which exists in the writings of James of Sarug, or Batnæ, as recorded within half a century of its occurrence, the great leader of a new doctrine adopted the story into his koran, as having taken place in the land of the origin of Islamism, amid the rock dwellings of the Edomites, in the mysterious city of Idumea, the Petra of the Romans, and which is called by Abu'l'feda, Ar-Rakin, the name used for the cave by Mohammed.

"The story of the Seven Sleepers has been adopted by all the nations who profess the Mohammedan religion from Bengal to Africa, and by many Christian nations, the names of the Seven having been introduced into the calendars of the Greek and Roman churches. The author has visited another cave to which the legend is attached. It is situated in a beautiful rocky glen, in the valley of the Cydnus, a few miles north of Tarsus, the former rival of Alexandria and Antioch, and the birthplace of the Apostle Paul. Another traveller, Colonel Rawlinson, has also found the same tradition attached to the Persian ruins of Shahabad, formerly one of the great capitals of Susiana, and a Nestorian metropolis, and which is watered by some magnificent aqueducts, excavated at an immense depth in the solid rock."

*The Alani.*—There dwelt in ancient times, on the Palus Maeotis, a barbarous people called the Alani, whose god was a naked sword, which they set up in the ground and worshipped, and whose greatest glory and happiness consisted in slaughtering their fellow-creatures, and whose skins they converted into horse covers. This nation considered it ignominious to die of old age.

## THE VESUVIUS GUIDE.

(See *Miss Catherine Taylor's Letters from Italy.*)

Dost thou ask is there danger? Oh, why  
should'st thou fear,  
Tho' the sunshine of youth and of beauty  
is thine;  
To the flaming volcano each day of the year  
In the journey of your portantine,\* it is  
mine.

The lava may rise, and as erst it may flow,  
Encompassing all in its fiery embrace,  
Still I must not think of the danger, but go;  
The arm of the Mighty One reaches this  
place.

And lady, fair lady, we ever shall be  
In probable peril where'er we may roam;  
I guide—wilt thou follow?—then listen to me,  
And know, I have six little children at  
home." L. M. S.

## Reviews.

*Canada, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Newfoundland, &c., with the History, Present State, and Prospects of those Colonies.* Cradock and Co.

A VALUABLE little work, in which information, drawn from a vast variety of sources, is ably condensed; and those who wish to emigrate will find more matter to interest them here than in many bulky volumes which pompously offer to guide them into the right path. It is written with elegance; but what we deem more important is, it is written in a spirit of impartiality, with an honest zeal to throw light on questions affecting deeply the future fortunes of the industrious classes. To the labourer, mechanic, and small capitalist Canada offers great attractions. It is remarked—

"To the United States, one objection—and many others might be adduced—is all-sufficient: the United States are not a possession of the British Crown; consequently, whatever advantages might accrue to individuals, by their emigrating to that region, there would be none to the parent state. This is a fact which ought never to be lost sight of, for it is to her colonies that Britain must ever look as one of the grand sources of her commercial wealth and prosperity. In the United States every Englishman is of necessity an alien; and we are not aware of any benefits exclusively derivable from his residence in that country which ought to be regarded as a compensation for the loss of British protection. To certain classes the Cape of Good Hope has many attractions; and it is probable that we may ere long bring them under the consideration of the public. In a general view, however, the Cape, like the Australian colonies, is too distant. For the labouring man, whatever may be his desire, the expense even of a steerage passage to Australia puts it far beyond his power to seek, unaided by government, any of those colonies.

\* Bearer.

"Canada has been emphatically termed 'The Poor Man's Home'; and in the immense tracts of country there, the sober and industrious labourer or mechanic—the farmer—or the merchant—is certain of having his exertions duly rewarded. According to a detailed estimate formed by Mr Buckingham, it appears that 'the area of the Canadas alone is about six times as large as that of all England and Wales; that Newfoundland alone is larger than Ireland; that New Brunswick is nearly as large as Scotland; and that Cape Breton and Prince Edward Island are fully as large as Wales. The whole area of our North American provinces alone is more than twice as great as that of all France, which is 130,370,840 acres: but while France has a population of 35,000,000 of people, these provinces have only an united population of 2,000,000, by the largest computation that can be made.' Besides, 'of the whole of this vast area there are not more than 20,000,000 of acres granted, and of these not more than 5,000,000 occupied.'

*The Genius of Solitude, and other Poems.*

Our attention is called to this little pamphlet by the unpresuming manner in which it is sent forth. The author gives no description of himself, but that he is "to fortune and to fame unknown;" and declares that "in the event of any favourable remarks being passed upon his productions, he will be in some degree disappointed." Had these poems been put before the public in a better dress by the printer, so as to gain them a reading, he would have been likely, we think, to experience disappointment. They contain many good thoughts felicitously expressed. Occasionally he is negligent, and allows very indifferent substitutes for rhymes to pass. In the 'Ruined Abbey' we have "sweep" and "weep," "again" and "begin." Such defects cannot be overlooked. It will, however, be seen, even from the following quotation, in which one of his offences is found, that the force and purity with which he can express himself prove he is not compelled by mental poverty so to eke out his strain, and indicate that he may attempt a higher flight without presumption.

"Remnant of ancient pride! I view  
Thy noble fragments with a sigh;  
These moss-clad portals once were new,  
This architecture pleased man's eye;  
But mourning now, thou seem'st to weep  
O'er those who sleep within thy walls;  
Whilst Time's corroding breezes sweep  
Thy ivied towers and roofless halls.  
"Who sleeps in dust, within this aisle?  
"Who sleeps?—the conqueror, eremite,  
Savage, or fiend—to whom the toil  
Of Mammon once seemed sacred right;  
Or he, who all for ONE disdained,  
And left the goods that 'rust consumes,'  
For lasting wealth; or he who reigned,  
Adorned with medals, scarfs, and plumes."

FORTUNE'S FROLICS.

WHEN deceitful Prosperity smiled on my way,  
And promised through life to be constant  
to me,  
Associates were numerous, and constant as  
gay,

Were kind and devoted, and faithful as she.  
Then bounded my heart, as with reason it  
might,  
While my talents and virtues they praised  
without end,  
And I cheerily sung with unbounded delight,  
How happy the mortal who wants not a  
friend!

The storm-cloud soon lowered—and affluence  
fled,  
My means began fast, my friends faster to  
fail;

The thunder now burst on my desolate head,  
Capacity doomed me to pine in a gaol.  
I sought the companions of youth and of  
health,

But all were too busy my call to attend;  
I learn'd 'twas not me they esteemed, but my  
wealth,

Unhappy, I looked, but in vain, for a friend.

Too late I awoke to my error, and sighed,  
When chance happened fortune again to  
restore,

And those who but lately were coldly denied,  
Appeared just as kind and attached as  
before;

"Go, go," I exclaimed, "ye who, while the  
sun's bright,  
Are willing to help me my substance to  
spend,

Then leave me to sorrow in poverty's night,  
None of you shall I henceforth mistake for  
a friend."

For thee, my old neighbour of lowly estate,  
Who never deceived by an overstrained  
zeal,

But laboured to temper the rancour of fate,  
And proved that your heart for another  
could feel,

In my now happy cot thou shalt evermore  
rest,

Regard can for thee with my life only end,  
I feel it an honour to call thee my guest,  
And joy in possessing one true-hearted  
friend.

T.

*Miscellaneous.*

THE SERFS IN RUSSIA.—St Petersburg, Jan. 9.—Some days ago we were witness of a melancholy occurrence. The bond-servants of an opulent nobleman had repeatedly requested him to grant to them liberty from bondage, and with it a certain amount of money, in conformity with the well-known ukase of April, 1842, which opened the prospect of the relations of landholders and peasants being regulated by contract. The nobleman refused their request, and the bondsmen, perceiving that they would not attain their object, resolved to have revenge. About ten of them, nearly all in full manhood, surprised their master when alone in his apartments, and

whipped him with rods so unmercifully that he would have been killed on the spot if some strangers, hearing his lamentable cries, had not hastened to his succour. The malefactors were at once handed over to the police ; their deed called for immediate punishment, as otherwise the most dangerous consequences might have arisen in a town so large and populous as St Petersburg, where the bond-servants form the sixth part of the population. Orders were given to have the accused judged by a court-martial. They were condemned to run the gauntlet through a line of 500 soldiers. The sentence was executed on one of the military parades, and all bond-servants had been called upon to be present. The culprits were unable to receive in one day the full punishment, and as soon as they are sufficiently cured in the hospital they will be submitted to it again. The survivors will then be transported to Siberia to work in the mines.—*Augsburg Gazette*, Jan. 22.

CHINA.—Advices have been received from Mr Fortune, engaged in collecting seeds for the Horticultural Society in China, dated Chusan, Nov. 12. He describes the coast of China to the northward as consisting of bare rugged rock, barren sand, and burnt gravelly clay, but with beautiful plants here and there. He had met with bad weather in his passage to Amoy, but had had an opportunity of exploring the islands of Koo-long-soo and Amoy. On the voyage thence to Chusan the vessel was twice driven back, once to Chinchen, and once to Chamoo; this, however, gave him the opportunity of landing at those places, and exploring the country for several miles inland. On no occasion had he met with serious obstacles to penetrating the country, but found the natives particularly civil, much more so than on the coast further south and at Canton. Mr Fortune had fallen in with hills covered with Azaleas, and with several other good things, seeds of which, in very small quantities, were inclosed in his letters. He had met with very beautiful Buddlea, with rich purple flowers, arranged in clusters like a Lilac; and a very fine Campanulaceous plant, with flowers as large as those of *Lisianthus Russellianus*. What he had seen of China gave him great hopes of fully realizing the anticipations of the society. He was about to proceed to Shang Hai and Ning-po.

#### The Gatherer.

*Destroying Thistles by Salt.*—If a small quantity of common salt, say about a tea-spoonful, is taken between the fingers and thumb and placed on the centre of the thistle, in a day or two it will turn black, and in the course of nine or ten days the

root and every part of the plant will be destroyed. This is a cheap and certain method of destroying thistles on land. One person will salt as many as five or six will cut up in the usual way. The salt should be applied before the thistles have attained a large size, and great care must be taken that it is not dropped amongst the grass or other herbage, as it will destroy it also.

—*J. M. T., Hillsborough, Ireland.*

*Old Drury.*—The pit door of old Drury Lane Theatre (not the late theatre) was in Catherine street, under what was then the Rose Tavern. The sign of that interesting flower, with the motto "Sub Rosa," appeared beneath it.

*A Coffee-house at Damascus.*—In this ancient city the coffee-houses claim particular notice. They are built on the bosom of the river, and supported by piles. The platform is raised only a few inches above the level of the stream. The roof is supported by slender rows of pillars, and it is quite open on every side; innumerable small seats cover the floor, and you take one of these and place it in the position you like best; the river, the surrounding banks of which are covered with wood, rushes rapidly by close to your feet. Near the coffee-houses are one or two cataracts several feet high, with a few trees growing out of the river beside them; and the perpetual sound of their fall, and the coolness they spread around, are exquisite luxuries in the sultry heat of day. At night, when the lamps, suspended from the slender pillars, are lighted, and Turks of different ranks, in all the varieties of their rich costume, cover the platform, just above the surface of the river (on which, and on its foaming waterfalls, the moonlight rests, and the sound of music is heard), the Arabian Nights' enchantments seem realized.

*Cause of Slavery in the West Indies.*—If there had been no warm regions in the New World, neither negro nor any other slavery would ever have existed there. Even the monopoly of colonial produce was absolutely necessary to the existence of slavery; for had sugar, and coffee, and cotton, been supplied from the beginning by free trade from the East, the West Indies would now have been peopled with Caribs, and the descendants or mixed descendants of Europeans, in a free state, as in some parts of the continent, and the negroes would have remained in Africa.—*Westminster Review*.

*Artesian Wells.*—In 1824 a well was dug at Fulham, near the Thames, at the Bishop of London's, to the depth of 317 feet, which, after traversing the tertiary strata, was continued through sixty-seven feet of chalk. The water immediately rose to the surface, and the discharge was above fifty gallons per minute. In the garden of the Horticultural Society, at Chiswick, chalk was

reached at a depth of 329 feet, from which the water rose to the surface. At the Duke of Northumberland's, above Chiswick, the borings were carried to the extraordinary depth of 620 feet into the chalk, when a considerable volume of water was obtained, which rose four feet above the surface of the ground. In a well of Mr Brooks's, at Hammersmith, the rush of water from a depth of 360 feet was so great as to inundate several buildings, and do considerable damage.

*The Land of Edom.*—According to Burckhardt, the deserted temples and rock-hewn palaces of Petra are the remains of the once proud but long-lost capital of Edom. The land, accursed of God, had for a series of centuries been untrodden by any foot but that of the wandering Arab. Now it is the mere common beaten track of vulgar tourists. English lords and Yankee lawyers, German princes and French petit-maitres, ride their dromedaries through the very heart of Edom, take their wine and sandwiches, smoke their cigars among the tombs of the deserted city, and talk familiarly of Mount Hor and Aaron's grave.

*Old Paintings.*—A letter from Leyden states that in the garrets of the Hôtel de Ville of that city, several paintings by the great masters, some paintings on glass by a celebrated master, and some rich tapestry had been discovered.

*Dr Wolff.*—There is reason to hope that Dr Wolff's mission will prove successful, and he will find those who were supposed to have been murdered perfectly safe. A dervish from Bokhara, whom he encountered at Ashkalah, in Armenia, where he arrived on the 8th of December, since the last advices, being asked if he had seen English travellers at Bokhara, replied, "Yes; and it was reported that they had been killed. There was no truth in it; but one of them came from Kokan, with whom the King of Bokhara was angry, believing that he assisted the King of Kokan, and therefore put both the tall and short Englishman into prison, but let them out after some time, and they now teach the soldiers of Bokhara the European exercise." Dr Wolff gives the names and places of abode of these dervishes, and states that at Erzerum, a sheikh of Bokhara, named Schah Jemand Addeen, of the family of Nakshbanchi, called upon him and said that he would find his friends alive.

*Bank Notes for Small Change.*—In 1782, when hard money, as it is called, was very plentiful in the United States, being supplied from France and England to pay their troops then stationed in the country, and also by the trade to Cuba, the Bank of North America was established at Philadelphia, principally through the exertions of the well-known Robert Morris. A great

part of the capital of the Bank of North America was subscribed for and nominally paid in by the government. This bank, about the year 1790, issued promissory notes for one penny; the lowest sum probably that ever appeared on the face of a bank note.

*Select Friends.*—Books are at least the best companions; they instruct us in silence without any display of superiority, and they attend the pace of each man's capacity, without reproaching him for his want of comprehension.

*Why so few are wise.*—If we subtract from the twenty-four hours the time spent in eating, sleeping, exercise, and the other indispensable cares of an existence, what a fraction of time is employed in our intellectual faculties. Again, there are few who have the means to enable them to study; fewer the talent requisite; and still fewer the inclination, if they have the ability.

*Sir Walter Scott's Monument at Edinburgh.*—A meeting of the contributors took place last week for the purpose of increasing the fund, which has fallen short on account of the expense attendant upon a proper preparation of the site. The height of the monument was designed to be 182 feet; the money in hand would only raise it 102 feet; thus leaving eighty feet of the upper part unbuilt, to complete which would require 3,000*l.* in addition to the funds subscribed. Upwards of 500*l.* was subscribed before the meeting broke up.

*Roman Antiquities.*—A bust of Parian marble in good preservation, and of excellent style, as it is said, has recently been dug up at Cherchell, in Africa, supposed to be that of Ptolemy, son of the second Juba, and last king of Mauritania Tingitana, which is valuable as being unique. Cherchell is the ancient Cæsarea. The bust is a portrait of a man in the freshness of youth, with the royal fillet on his brow; and has a striking resemblance to the likeness on the coins of the Ptolemy in question.

*Character of the Natives of India.*—Sir Henry Strachey thus accounts for the bad character of the natives of India, or at least those who are placed in official situations. "We place," he says, "the European beyond the reach of temptation. To the native, a man whose ancestors perhaps bore high command, we assign some ministerial office, with a poor stipend of twenty or thirty rupees per month (24*l.* or 30*l.* per annum). Then we pronounce that the Indians are corrupt, and that no race of men but the Company's European servants are fit to govern."

*The Model Prison at Pentonville.*—Great complaints are made of the effects of the system adopted at the model prison at Pentonville. The object of the establishment was a benevolent one. On entering, the convict

is told that he will be taught an art which will enable him to earn his bread by honourable industry: that moral and religious knowledge will be imparted; that, at the end of eighteen months, he will be sent to Van Diemen's Land; there, if he behave well, to receive a ticket of leave, which is equivalent to freedom, with the certainty of abundant maintenance, the fruit of industry; if he behave indifferently he will be transported to Van Diemen's Land, there to receive a probationary pass, which will secure to him only a limited portion of his own earnings, and impose galling restraints; and if he behave ill he will be transported to Tasman's Peninsula, there to work in a probationary gang, without wages, an abject slave.

*Lawyers turned Soldiers.*—In the year 1798, when the Irish rebellion broke out, and the genius of loyalty martialized the various classes of the community, the ordinary business of the courts of law was discharged by barristers in regimentals.

*A Hint for the Bar.*—A lawyer will think, and wisely perhaps, that the acquisition of the embellishing faculties is seldom attended with sufficient opportunity for their display to compensate for the deviation which they require from the straightforward road to professional eminence, and will pursue his progress, like the American traveller, who, in journeying through vast prairies, passes, without regard, the fertile landscapes which lie adjacent, and never turns from his track for the sake of the rich fruits and the refreshing springs which, however delicious, may bewilder and lead him for ever astray from the final object of his destination.

*Music favourable to Shaving.*—Philip the Fifth of Spain fell once into such a fit of low spirits that for several months he refused to be shaved, until the soothing sweetness of Farinelli's strains induced him to submit his chin to the razor with great cheerfulness and resolution.

*Wonders of our Time.*—Time has evinced the achievement of apparent impossibilities. The Marquis of Worcester was laughed at for his 'Century of Inventions,' yet every day furnishes fresh proof of their feasibility. Who is there that does not remember the jokes and sarcasms levelled at Winsor when he first promulgated his scheme of lighting London with gas? Yet who that indulged in thus ridiculing what he could not comprehend, does not blush at the recollection?

*Temperance necessary to Longevity.*—Excesses precipitate their votaries into a premature grave. Boerhaave observed that few who are intemperate in the use of wine, brandy, and other spirituous liquors survive the age of fifty. With these votaries of Bacchus the votaries of Venus proceed

*pari passu*; and immediately after come the immoderate eaters. Plato and Socrates grew old upon very frugal fare; and Maimonides, the Arabian physician, says that it is necessary to avoid overloading the stomach with too much food. Bread and water are an admirable diet for those who would rival Methusalem, and fasting is an excellent promoter of their views.

*Earthly Immortality* has always been coveted. Artephius caused a youth to be killed, and, as we are told, extracted from his blood the magnet of the human spirit, by means of which he attained a great age, and, after he had become weary of life, laid himself down of his own accord in the grave, but not without taking along with him some of this volatile spirit in a bottle, to which he occasionally smells, merely to protract his life, which he thus prolonged for more than a thousand years.

*Trade to China.*—At a late meeting of the Liverpool cotton brokers and Manchester cotton spinners, the chairman, Mr Gardner, alluded to the state of the Indian and China trade. In 1842 the export of cotton yarn to those markets was 22,500,000 pounds, and in 1843, 23,800,000 pounds; which was not three millions of pounds more than the shipments of those markets in 1839. In 1842 there were 145,000,000 yards of calico sent to those markets, and in 1843, 230,000,000.

*Hydropathy.*—The French academy has decided against admitting hydropathy to be a part of the medical system of France; cold water, subject to rules, has long been known they say, among her students of physic.

*Algiers.*—A camel-mounted regiment has just been formed by the French Governor of Algiers. The animals seem as capable of being taught military exercises as horses are.

*The Legitimate Drama.*—At the Theatre Royal, Manchester, it is announced that the management is actively engaged in the preparation of several new and old plays, among which are—Massinger's 'Fatal Dowry'; Mr Jones's 'Spartacus, or the Roman Gladiator'; and the 'Provost of Bruges,' by Mr Lovell.

#### TO CORRESPONDENTS.

*We are obliged to Mr L., of Sloane square, for his hints, which will be duly attended to. All the subjects he mentions are suitable, and we shall be glad to hear further from him.*

*A letter will be left at the office for Mr Moore in a day or two.*

*A note will be left for L. M. S.*

*Answers to several correspondents must be deferred till next week.*

*LONDON: Published by JOHN MORTIMER, Adelaide Street, Trafalgar Square; and sold by all Booksellers and Newsmen.*

*Printed by REYNELL and WRIGHT, Little Pulteney street, and at the Royal Polytechnic Institution.*